

Miami Township Fire and EMS Operating Procedures



TITLE:

EMERGENCY SCENE EVACUATION OPERATING PROCEDURE

#701

EFFECTIVE DATE:

11/15/2013

DATE AMENDED:

09/18/2015

REVIEW DATE:

03/18/2016

APPROVED BY:

Chief Steve Kelly

This Operating Procedure shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until superseded.

PURPOSE

Establish an Operating Procedure (OP) for communicating an evacuation order to ensure the immediate retreat of personnel operating within a structure that has been determined to be unsafe.

Establish an OP for communicating a withdrawal order to ensure the orderly retreat of personnel and equipment from within a structure.

These are not rules, but Procedures to be used under the best of conditions with the optimum resources available. It is important to note that judgment and discretion must be used on all functions, activities and operations of the department.

SCOPE

This Procedure applies to any incident where the conditions of the fire building, through interior and/or exterior observations, warrant the immediate withdrawal of personal from within or near the structure.

DEFINITIONS

Evacuate Order

An evacuation order is used for an imminent situation in which fire fighters must be quickly evacuate from a building or situation that is considered to be a threat to life.

Withdrawal Order

A withdrawal order is used for a situation in which the strategy has changed, but is not as urgent and an evacuation order. A withdrawal order allows crews that are operating the hot zone to take with them any tools or equipment from the building.

PROCEDURES

A. Command

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Incident Commander to issue an evacuation or withdrawal order.
2. In the event an evacuation order is needed and time is not permitted to notify the Incident Commander, the individual aware of the urgent situation may transmit an evacuation order.
3. A situation that requires personnel to withdrawal shall be conveyed to the Incident Commander or Safety Officer.

B. Concept Of Evacuation Operations

1. An evacuation order shall only be used when an imminent unsafe condition exists and shall not be used as a routine withdrawal order.



Miami Township Fire and EMS Operating Procedures

TITLE:

EMERGENCY SCENE EVACUATION OPERATING PROCEDURE

#701

- a. An imminent unsafe condition can include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Rapidly changing and/or uncontrollable fire conditions
 - Structural collapse
 - Structure considered unsafe
 - Explosion
 - Loss of water
2. The Incident Commander or Safety Officer should make the decision to evacuate, but any firefighter or officer who observes conditions on the fire ground that could pose an immediate threat to safety shall relay this information to the Incident Commander if time permits.
3. If the Incident Commander did not order the evacuation, the evacuation order will be assumed by the Incident Commander after the initial transmission of the evacuation order.

C. Concept Of Withdrawal Operations

1. A withdrawal order shall be used when conditions indicate that a change in strategy is needed, but is not a situation that is an immediate threat to life.
 - a. Conditions suggestive of a withdrawal order include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Change in strategy from offensive to defensive
 - Fire and/or smoke conditions not matching the expected results
 - Fire and smoke conditions visible from the exterior not matching reports from interior crews
2. The Incident Commander or Safety Officer should make the decision to withdrawal.

D. Notification Process

1. The following process shall be followed by the initiator of the evacuation order:
 - a. First, the phrase "*Emergency Traffic*" will be announced over the radio as per the Emergency Traffic Transmission Procedure of the *Clermont County, Ohio Unified Mayday/Emergency Traffic Standard Operating Guideline*.
 - b. After the "*Emergency Traffic*" phrase has been transmitted it should be immediately followed by the evacuation order or withdrawal order.
 - "*All personnel, evacuate-evacuate-evacuate.*"
 - "*All personnel, withdrawal-withdrawal-withdrawal.*"
 - b. Next, the initiator will announce the purpose of the evacuation or withdrawal.



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#701

- c. Immediately following the radio transmission for an evacuation, an audible signal will be used to assist in notifying firefighters of the evacuation order. A fire apparatus, designated by the Incident Commander, will transmit an air horn blast.
- The air horn alert will be a continuous blast lasting 20-30 seconds.
 - The Incident Commander, Accountability and Safety Officers should not be near any apparatus sounding the air horn blast.
 - If needed, based upon the size of the incident scene, other apparatus will be used to transmit air horn blasts.
 - An air horn blast is NOT needed for a withdrawal order.

E. Evacuation And Withdrawal Process

1. Upon receiving an evacuation or withdrawal order, all personnel assigned as a company shall exit as a company. Company integrity shall be ensured at all times.
2. It will be up to the companies ordered to evacuate if equipment, such as a hose line, is abandoned. It is strongly encouraged that any hand tool taken into a structure with a firefighter remains with the firefighter during the evacuation.
3. All equipment will be removed during a withdrawal order.
4. No company ordered to evacuate or withdrawal from a building should issue a radio response as an acknowledgment of the order.
5. After exiting the building all companies shall notify the Incident Commander or Accountability Officer of a Personnel Accountability Report (PAR).
6. After exiting the building, personnel shall rally at a safe location or area designated by the Incident Commander. Based upon the size of the incident, there may be a designation of more than one location.
 - a. The default meeting location will be the primary engine.